GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:895
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
WALKING OUT BY USA FROM ABM TREATY
RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. has decided to walk out from the 1972 Anti Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty;

(b) if so, the ramifications thereof; and (

(c) the Government`s reaction thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Yes, Sir. The US tendered the stipulated six months` notice of withdrawal from the 1972 bilateral ABM Treaty to the Russian Federation on 13 December 2001.

(b),(c) India has consistently advocated cooperative approaches to strategic stability involving dialogue and consultation amongst all concerned, and not taking recourse to unilateralism. India has a regular dialogue with both Russia and the US on ballistic missile defense and the new strategic framework. It has welcomed the process of intensive and wide-ranging consultations between President Putin and President Bush and their commitment to work closely together. India particularly welcomed the reaffirmation by Russia and the United States to substantially reduce their strategic offensive nuclear weapons which would contribute very significantly towards nuclear disarmament.